

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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NO: 2652, JANUARY 20, 8 P.M.

REFERENCE: DEPTEL 2532 AND EMBTEL 2651.

EMBASSY OFFICER REVIEWED POINTS MADE REFERENCE TELEGRAM WITH BOEGNER TODAY AND SOLICITED FURTHER CLARIFICATION DIFFERENTIATION MADE BY DE GAULLE BETWEEN HIS INSISTENCE ON TRIPARTITE PLANNING ON BROAD STRATEGIC PROBLEMS AND ON ISSUE OF USE OF FORCE IN ACCESS TO BERLIN.

BOEGNER STRONGLY MADE POINT DE GAULLE GOVERNMENT ABSOLUTELY FIRM IN ITS INTENTION RESIST FORCE BY FORCE.

HOWEVER, DE GAULLE FEELS THAT TO MAKE ADVANCE COMMITMENT OF POLITICAL NATURE ON USE OF FORCE IN SEEKING ACCESS TO BERLIN UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH CANNOT BE FORESEEN IN ADVANCE AND WHICH IF USED MIGHT RISK GENERAL WAR IS VASTLY DIFFERENT THAN MAKING BROAD STRATEGIC PLAN WHICH WOULD GO INTO EFFECT "SEMI-AUTOMATICALLY" SHOULD ALLIES BE FACED WITH SUDDEN THREAT OF ALL-OUT WAR. ACCORDING BOEGNER DE GAULLE IS INSISTENT THAT FRENCH HAVE OPPORTUNITY EVALUATE SITUATION IN LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES AT TIME, SHOULD CONVOY TURN BACK AS RESULT OUR REFUSAL LET GDR AUTHORITIES INSPECT DOCUMENTATION. WE SHOULD PLAN FOR ANY EXIGENCIES THAT MIGHT ARISE, BUT DECISION ON NEXT STEP WOULD REMAIN TO BE TAKEN ON POLITICAL LEVEL. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT DECISION ON PRINCIPLE REGARDING USE OF FORCE TO MEET THREAT WOULD BE PUT OFF TO INDEFINITE FUTURE BUT RATHER TO TIME WHEN SITUATION SHOULD DEMAND FINAL DECISION.

HOUGHTON

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